

UNCLASSIFIED

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DRAFTED BY S/CCT:RAFEAREY/ARA/APU:RCFELDER:IJG  
APPROVED BY S/CCT - ROBERT A. FEAREY

O 102341Z APR 75  
FM SECSTATE WASHDC  
TO AMEMBASSY BUENOS AIRES IMMEDIATE  
[REDACTED] STATE 082580

LIMDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS  
TAGS: PINS, ASEC, AR  
SUBJECT: EXTORTION DEMAND/THREAT AGAINST US BUSINESS

1. DEPT WAS TELEPHONED ON URGENT BASIS EVENING APRIL 10 BY MR. ELI ZBOROWSKI, SCHAEFFER LATIN AMERICA CO., WITH REFERENCE TO A THREAT AGAINST THE LIFE OF COMPANY'S BUENOS AIRES PLANT MANAGER (NAME NOT PROVIDED). ZBOROWSKI INFORMED DEPT THAT EXTORTIONIST, WHO CLAIMED TO BE MONTONERO, DEMANDED PAYMENT OF ONE HUNDRED THOUSAND DOLLARS OR PESOS EQUIVALENT. INITIAL DEMAND WAS MADE APPROXIMATELY 2 WEEKS AGO, FOLLOWED UP BY NUMEROUS PHONE CALLS, BUT DELIVERY INSTRUCTIONS NOT YET RECEIVED.

2. ZBOROWSKI SAID MANAGER AND HIS WIFE AND CHILDREN ARE TERRIFIED AND HE HAS CONFINED HIS MOVEMENTS AT EXTORTIONISTS INSTRUCTIONS TO HOUSE AND OFFICE. HE BELIEVES HIS PHONE IS TAPPED AND THEREFORE HAS CONTACTED NO ONE EXCEPT HIS NEW YORK HOME OFFICE ABOUT THIS MATTER. EXTORTIONIST ALSO THREATENED LIFE MANAGER'S DAUGHTER STUDYING IN GERMANY, ABOUT WHOM HE HAD FULL INFORMATION, IF DEMAND NOT MET.

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3. SCHAEFFER REPRESENTATIVE, MISS THERESA KNOESTER, ARRIVING BUENOS AIRES AFTERNOON APRIL 11. SHE WILL HAVE IN HER POSSESSION A CHECK TO MEET THE EXTORTIONIST'S DEMAND.

DEPT OFFICIALS STRONGLY URGED ZBOROWSKI TO INSTRUCT MISS KNOESTER TO CALL ON BECKETT AT THE EMBASSY TO SEEK EMBASSY'S GUIDANCE BEFORE CONTACTING MANAGER, OR TAKING ANY OTHER ACTION. WE URGED ON ZBOROWSKI ADVISABILITY OF OTHER ALTERNATIVES CONSISTENT WITH SAFETY OF MANAGER AND HIS FAMILY BEING FULLY EXPLORED BEFORE ANY ACTION IS TAKEN TO MEET DEMAND. ZBOROWSKI ACCEPTED THIS ADVICE AND SAID HE WOULD INSTRUCT MISS KNOESTER ALONG ABOVE LINES BUT REQUESTED IN STRONGEST TERMS THAT EMBASSY NEITHER CONTACT SCHAEFFER REPRESENTATIVES IN BUENOS AIRES NOR ARGENTINE AUTHORITIES UNTIL AFTER MEETING WITH MISS KNOESTER. WE ASSURED HIM THIS REQUEST WOULD BE COMPLIED WITH. WE ALSO SAID EMBASSY MIGHT, IN COLLABORATION WITH ARGENTINE AUTHORITIES, BE ABLE TO FACILITATE THE DEPARTURE FROM ARGENTINA OF THE THREATENED INDIVIDUAL AND HIS FAMILY IN SUCH A WAY AS TO MAKE PAYMENT OF THE DEMANDED MONEY UN-NECESSARY.

4. COMMENT: TO OUR KNOWLEDGE THIS IS NOT THE MONTONEROS NORMAL OPERATING METHOD. THIS COULD BE CASE OF CRIMINAL EXTORTION. HOWEVER, ZBOROWSKI NOTED THAT EXTORTIONIST HAD INFORMED MANAGER THAT SUBSEQUENT TO RECEIPT OF DEMANDED MONEY, AN UNSPECIFIED NUMBER OF SCHAEFFER PENS WOULD HAVE TO BE PROVIDED FOR PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION.

5. PLEASE ADVISE DEPT OF SIGNIFICANT DEVELOPMENTS. KISSINGER

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